

right to do these tests, they would have been able to say on religious grounds I don't want this child tested, and instead of seeing a bright, beautiful young girl from Burwell, Nebraska, she may be in an institution today, she may still be learning how to talk, how to walk, she would be mentally retarded, and she would have had no choice in the matter because of her parents' beliefs. I want to remind you of one other thing. Remember last week when I told you in the public hearing committee when the Christian Science said we don't believe in medical attention, we believe in prayer, and I do not disagree with them. I believe in old Cardinal Neuman's saying, who incidentally was a protestant and then became a Catholic Cardinal, and he always said, pray as if everything depended upon God but work as if everything depended upon you. Well, in this case, let's put common sense with prayer but the main thing is the Christian Science did state at that public hearing they do go to doctors when they become pregnant. They do have doctors deliver their children. Now if they believe that much in medical science, how could they possibly not believe in letting a newborn infant grow up normal. It is a contradiction. Senator DeCamp says, well, we are opening the way for a lot of other things. He may be right. Anything set in law shouldn't be set in granite. If we find there is an abuse of this, we will be back here next year. Every year we make changes in the law to correct the mistakes we made previously, but for this year, let's give every newborn infant the opportunity to grow up to be normal, and until we get a better argument, and I am not even going to mention the cost to the state for caring for those unfortunates, cost doesn't enter into it. If it cost a billion dollars to take care of these people whose parents said we do not want them to receive proper medical treatment to prevent retardation, cost is nothing. It is the life that that person is going to live. Is it even going to be a life? Is it going to be even worth living? And who has the right to say this one is going to be retarded forever because someone had a religious belief and I concur everybody is entitled to them but I would remind you that religious beliefs for the centuries have stopped progress many times. I know in my own church we used to have a lot of religious beliefs we don't have today.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Half a minute.

SENATOR HIGGINS: We couldn't used to marry Protestants. We couldn't used to go to a Protestant marriage. Now that